



639802

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/25/2026	.	
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The Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services  
(Harrell) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Present subsections (3) and (4) of 464.008,  
Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4) and (5),  
respectively, a new subsection (3) and subsection (6) are added  
to that section, and subsection (1) of that section is  
republished, to read:

464.008 Licensure by examination.-



639802

11 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a registered  
12 nurse or licensed practical nurse shall apply to the department  
13 to take the licensure examination. The department shall examine  
14 each applicant who:

15 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a fee  
16 set by the board not to exceed \$150 and has remitted an  
17 examination fee set by the board not to exceed \$75 plus the  
18 actual per applicant cost to the department for purchase of the  
19 examination from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
20 or a similar national organization.

21 (b) Has provided sufficient information on or after October  
22 1, 1989, which must be submitted by the department for a  
23 statewide criminal records correspondence check through the  
24 Department of Law Enforcement.

25 (c) Is in good mental and physical health, is a recipient  
26 of a high school diploma or the equivalent, and has completed  
27 the requirements for:

- 28 1. Graduation from an approved program;  
29 2. Graduation from a prelicensure nursing education program  
30 that the board determines is equivalent to an approved program;  
31 3. Graduation on or after July 1, 2009, from an accredited  
32 program; or  
33 4. Graduation before July 1, 2009, from a prelicensure  
34 nursing education program whose graduates at that time were  
35 eligible for examination.

36  
37 Courses successfully completed in a professional nursing  
38 education program that are at least equivalent to a practical  
39 nursing education program may be used to satisfy the education



639802

40 requirements for licensure as a licensed practical nurse.

41 (d) Has the ability to communicate in the English language,  
42 which may be determined by an examination given by the  
43 department.

44 (3) (a) Any applicant who desires to take the licensure  
45 examination for the first time more than 6 months after  
46 graduation must complete a board-approved remedial course or a  
47 board-developed remedial course before the applicant may be  
48 approved for examination.

49 (b) The board shall develop a remedial course in  
50 consultation with the Florida Center for Nursing. The course  
51 must be made available on the board's website free of charge to  
52 applicants experiencing hardship, as defined by the board.

53 (6) (a) The department shall issue a temporary provisional  
54 license to an applicant who is eligible to take the licensure  
55 examination under subsection (1) and who seeks to practice as a  
56 graduate professional nurse or graduate practical nurse, as  
57 applicable.

58 (b) A temporary provisional license issued under this  
59 subsection:

60 1. Is valid for a period not to exceed 180 days after the  
61 date of issuance.

62 2. Is nonrenewable.

63 3. Automatically expires upon the applicant passing the  
64 licensure examination and the department issuing a full license,  
65 or upon the applicant's failure to pass the examination.

66 (c) A temporary provisional licensee may practice only  
67 under the direct supervision of a registered nurse or licensed  
68 practical nurse, as applicable, who has filed a written protocol



639802

69 with the department. The board shall adopt rules to implement  
70 this paragraph.

71 Section 2. Subsections (1), (2), (3), (5), and (8) and  
72 paragraph (f) of subsection (11) of section 464.019, Florida  
73 Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (c) is added to subsection  
74 (6) of that section, to read:

75 464.019 Approval of nursing education programs.—

76 (1) PROGRAM APPLICATION.—An educational institution that  
77 wishes to conduct a program in this state for the prelicensure  
78 education of professional or practical nurses must submit to the  
79 department a program application and review fee of \$1,000 for  
80 each prelicensure nursing education program to be offered at the  
81 institution's main campus, branch campus, or other instructional  
82 site. The program application must include the legal name of the  
83 educational institution, the legal name of the nursing education  
84 program, the legal name of the nursing education program  
85 director, the status and outcome of any pending or closed  
86 disciplinary case against the applicant in another regulatory  
87 jurisdiction in the United States, and, if such institution is  
88 accredited, the name of the accrediting agency. The application  
89 must also document that:

90 (a)1. For a professional nursing education program, the  
91 program director and at least 50 percent of the program's  
92 faculty members are registered nurses who have a master's or  
93 higher degree in nursing or a bachelor's degree in nursing and a  
94 master's or higher degree in a field related to nursing.

95 2. For a practical nursing education program, the program  
96 director and at least 50 percent of the program's faculty  
97 members are registered nurses who have a bachelor's or higher



639802

98 degree in nursing.

99

100 The educational degree requirements of this paragraph must ~~may~~  
101 be documented by an official transcript or by a written  
102 statement from the program director of the educational  
103 institution verifying that the institution conferred the degree.  
104 The program director shall certify the official transcript or  
105 written statement as true and accurate.

106 (b) The program's nursing major curriculum consists of at  
107 least:

108 1. Fifty percent clinical training in the United States,  
109 the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the  
110 United States for a practical nursing education program, an  
111 associate degree professional nursing education program, or a  
112 professional diploma nursing education program.

113 2. Forty percent clinical training in the United States,  
114 the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the  
115 United States for a bachelor's degree professional nursing  
116 education program.

117 (c) No more than 50 percent of the program's clinical  
118 training consists of clinical simulation.

119 (d) The program has signed agreements with each agency,  
120 facility, and organization included in the curriculum plan as  
121 clinical training sites and community-based clinical experience  
122 sites.

123 (e) The program has written policies for faculty which  
124 include provisions for direct or indirect supervision by program  
125 faculty or clinical preceptors for students in clinical training  
126 consistent with the following standards:



639802

127           1. The number of program faculty members equals at least  
128 one faculty member directly supervising every 12 students unless  
129 the written agreement between the program and the agency,  
130 facility, or organization providing clinical training sites  
131 allows more students, not to exceed 18 students, to be directly  
132 supervised by one program faculty member.

133           2. For a hospital setting, indirect supervision may occur  
134 only if there is direct supervision by an assigned clinical  
135 preceptor, a supervising program faculty member is available by  
136 telephone, and such arrangement is approved by the clinical  
137 facility.

138           3. For community-based clinical experiences that involve  
139 student participation in invasive or complex nursing activities,  
140 students must be directly supervised by a program faculty member  
141 or clinical preceptor and such arrangement must be approved by  
142 the community-based clinical facility.

143           4. For community-based clinical experiences not subject to  
144 subparagraph 3., indirect supervision may occur only when a  
145 supervising program faculty member is available to the student  
146 by telephone.

147  
148 A program's policies established under this paragraph must  
149 require that a clinical preceptor who is supervising students in  
150 a professional nursing education program be a registered nurse  
151 or, if supervising students in a practical nursing education  
152 program, be a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

153           (f) The professional or practical nursing curriculum plan  
154 documents clinical experience and theoretical instruction in  
155 medical, surgical, obstetric, pediatric, and geriatric nursing.



639802

156 A professional nursing curriculum plan must ~~shall~~ also document  
157 clinical experience and theoretical instruction in psychiatric  
158 nursing. Each curriculum plan must document clinical training  
159 experience in appropriate settings that include, but are not  
160 limited to, acute care, long-term care, and community settings.

161 (g) The professional or practical nursing education program  
162 provides theoretical instruction and clinical application in  
163 personal, family, and community health concepts; nutrition;  
164 human growth and development throughout the life span; body  
165 structure and function; interpersonal relationship skills;  
166 mental health concepts; pharmacology and administration of  
167 medications; and legal aspects of practice. A professional  
168 nursing education program must also provide theoretical  
169 instruction and clinical application in interpersonal  
170 relationships and leadership skills; professional role and  
171 function; and health teaching and counseling skills.

172 (h) The professional or practical nursing education program  
173 has established evaluation and standardized admission criteria.  
174 The admission criteria must, at a minimum, identify those  
175 students who are likely to need additional preparation and  
176 educational support to be successful program graduates. The  
177 program must maintain documentation of the individualized  
178 student academic support plan for those students identified as  
179 in need of additional preparation and educational support.

180 (i) For each student, the professional or practical nursing  
181 education program administers an exit examination that is a  
182 national, standardized, and comprehensive predictor exam  
183 designed to help nursing students assess their readiness for the  
184 National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing



639802

185 Examination (NCLEX) by identifying areas needing further study  
186 and remediation. A student may not be excluded from graduation  
187 on the sole basis of the exit examination if the student has  
188 otherwise successfully completed all coursework required by the  
189 program.

190 (j) The professional or practical nursing education program  
191 has submitted to the board the established criteria for  
192 remediation that will be offered to students who do not  
193 successfully pass the exit examination.

194 (k) Beginning August 1, 2027, a program with a passage rate  
195 more than 10 percentage points lower than the average national  
196 passage rate during the same calendar year for graduates of  
197 comparable degree programs who are United States-educated,  
198 first-time test takers on the NCLEX, as calculated by the  
199 contract testing service of the National Council of State Boards  
200 of Nursing, offers a graduate nursing preceptorship to its  
201 graduates. If a graduate from such a program does not pass the  
202 NCLEX at the conclusion of his or her preceptorship, the  
203 professional or practical nursing education program must offer  
204 remediation to the graduate for free.

205 1. All programs are encouraged to offer a graduate nursing  
206 preceptorship to their graduates to provide opportunities for  
207 job shadowing, clinical training, nonclinical training, and  
208 patient care in a hospital setting. Graduates who have been  
209 issued a temporary provisional license under s. 464.008(6) may  
210 participate in such preceptorships. A graduate nursing  
211 preceptorship must last for 3 months, with the expectation that  
212 graduates will take the NCLEX at the conclusion of the  
213 preceptorship. Clinical preceptors shall oversee the



639802

214 preceptorship programs.

215 2. By January 1, 2027, the Florida Center for Nursing shall  
216 establish standards for graduate nursing preceptorships,  
217 including supervision requirements. The board shall incorporate  
218 the standards into rule.

219 (2) PROGRAM APPROVAL.—

220 (a) Upon receipt of a program application and review fee,  
221 the department shall examine the application to determine if it  
222 is complete. If the application is not complete, the department  
223 must ~~shall~~ notify the educational institution in writing of any  
224 errors or omissions within 30 days after the department's  
225 receipt of the application. A program application is deemed  
226 complete upon the department's receipt of:

227 1. The initial application, if the department does not  
228 notify the educational institution of any errors or omissions  
229 within the 30-day period; or

230 2. A revised application that corrects each error and  
231 omission of which the department notifies the educational  
232 institution within the 30-day period.

233 (b) Following the department's receipt of a complete  
234 program application, the board may conduct an onsite evaluation  
235 if necessary to document the applicant's compliance with  
236 subsection (1). Within 90 days after the department's receipt of  
237 a complete program application, the board shall:

238 1. Approve the application if it documents compliance with  
239 subsection (1); or

240 2. Provide the educational institution with a notice of  
241 intent to deny the application if it does not document  
242 compliance with subsection (1). The notice must specify written



639802

243 reasons for the board's denial of the application. The board may  
244 not deny a program application because of an educational  
245 institution's failure to correct an error or omission that the  
246 department failed to provide notice of to the institution within  
247 the 30-day notice period under paragraph (a). The educational  
248 institution may request a hearing on the notice of intent to  
249 deny the program application pursuant to chapter 120.

250 (c) A program application is deemed approved if the board  
251 does not act within the 90-day review period provided under  
252 paragraph (b).

253 (d) Upon the board's approval of a program application, the  
254 program becomes an approved program.

255 (e) The board may consider adverse actions taken against a  
256 nursing education program by another regulatory jurisdiction in  
257 the United States in determining program approval. The program  
258 director of an approved program must notify the board within 15  
259 days after any adverse action is taken against the program by  
260 another regulatory jurisdiction in the United States.

261 1. The board shall deny an application from an applicant if  
262 another regulatory jurisdiction in the United States has  
263 terminated or otherwise revoked its authority to operate a  
264 nursing education program.

265 2. The board may investigate the nature of an adverse  
266 action. In instances of adverse action other than termination or  
267 revocation of a program's authority to operate, the board may:

268 a. Approve the application;

269 b. Approve the application with conditions; or

270 c. Deny the application.

271 3. The board may impose disciplinary remedies on an



639802

272 approved program against which an adverse action has been taken  
273 by another regulatory jurisdiction in the United States. The  
274 board may impose remedies up to and including revocation of a  
275 program's approval pursuant to rules adopted under this section.

276 (3) ANNUAL REPORT.—By November 1 of each year, each  
277 approved program's director ~~program~~ shall submit to the board an  
278 annual report consisting ~~comprised~~ of an affidavit certifying  
279 continued compliance with subsection (1), a summary description  
280 of the program's compliance with subsection (1), and  
281 documentation for the previous academic year that, to the extent  
282 applicable, describes:

283 (a) The number of student applications received, qualified  
284 applicants, applicants accepted, accepted applicants who enroll  
285 in the program, students enrolled in the program, and program  
286 graduates.

287 (b) The program's retention rates for students tracked from  
288 program entry to graduation.

289 (c) The program's accreditation status, including  
290 identification of the accrediting agency.

291  
292 The board must terminate the program pursuant to chapter 120 if  
293 the requirements of this subsection are not met. Upon request,  
294 the board may give an extension for good cause not to exceed 60  
295 days for a program to meet the requirements of this subsection.  
296 If a program director is found to be in violation of this  
297 subsection, the board may impose a penalty listed in s.  
298 456.072(2).

299 (5) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

300 (a)1. An approved program must achieve a graduate passage



639802

301 rate for first-time test takers which is not more than 10  
302 percentage points lower than the average passage rate during the  
303 same calendar year for graduates of comparable degree programs  
304 who are United States educated, first-time test takers on the  
305 National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing  
306 Examination, as calculated by the contract testing service of  
307 the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. For purposes of  
308 this subparagraph, an approved program is comparable to all  
309 degree programs of the same program type from among the  
310 following program types:

311 a. Professional nursing education programs that terminate  
312 in a bachelor's degree.

313 b. Professional nursing education programs that terminate  
314 in an associate degree.

315 c. Professional nursing education programs that terminate  
316 in a diploma.

317 d. Practical nursing education programs.

318 2. If an approved program's graduate passage rates do not  
319 equal or exceed the required passage rates for 2 consecutive  
320 calendar years, the board must ~~shall~~ place the program on  
321 probationary status pursuant to chapter 120 and the program  
322 director must submit a written remediation plan to the board.

323 The program director must ~~shall~~ appear before the board to  
324 present the ~~a~~ plan for remediation, which must ~~shall~~ include  
325 specific nationally recognized benchmarks to identify progress  
326 toward a graduate passage rate goal. The board must terminate a  
327 program pursuant to chapter 120 if the program director fails to  
328 submit a written remediation plan or fails to appear before the  
329 board and present the remediation plan within 6 months after the



639802

330 date of the program being placed on probation. The board may  
331 impose a penalty listed in s. 456.072(2) on the program director  
332 for such failure. The program must remain on probationary status  
333 until it achieves a graduate passage rate that equals or exceeds  
334 the required passage rate for ~~any~~ 1 calendar year. The board  
335 must ~~shall~~ deny a program application for a new prelicensure  
336 nursing education program submitted by an educational  
337 institution if the institution has an existing program that is  
338 already on probationary status.

339         3. Upon the program's achievement of a graduate passage  
340 rate that equals or exceeds the required passage rate, the  
341 board, at its next regularly scheduled meeting following release  
342 of the program's graduate passage rate by the National Council  
343 of State Boards of Nursing, shall remove the program's  
344 probationary status. If the program, during the 2 calendar years  
345 following its placement on probationary status, does not achieve  
346 the required passage rate ~~for any 1 calendar year~~, the board  
347 must ~~may extend the program's probationary status for 1~~  
348 ~~additional year, provided the program has demonstrated adequate~~  
349 ~~progress toward the graduate passage rate goal by meeting a~~  
350 ~~majority of the benchmarks established in the remediation plan.~~  
351 ~~If the program is not granted the 1-year extension or fails to~~  
352 ~~achieve the required passage rate by the end of such extension,~~  
353 ~~the board shall~~ terminate the program pursuant to chapter 120.

354         (b) If an approved program fails to submit the annual  
355 report required in subsection (3), the board must ~~shall~~ notify  
356 the program director and president or chief executive officer of  
357 the educational institution in writing within 15 days after the  
358 due date of the annual report. The program director must ~~shall~~



639802

359 appear before the board at the board's next regularly scheduled  
360 meeting to explain the reason for the delay. The board must  
361 ~~shall~~ terminate the program pursuant to chapter 120 if the  
362 program director fails to appear before the board, as required  
363 under this paragraph, or if the program does not submit the  
364 annual report within 6 months after the due date.

365 (c) A nursing education program, whether accredited or  
366 nonaccredited, which has been placed on probationary status must  
367 ~~shall~~ disclose its probationary status in writing to the  
368 program's students and applicants. The notification must include  
369 an explanation of the implications of the program's probationary  
370 status on the students or applicants.

371 (d) If students from a program that is terminated pursuant  
372 to this subsection transfer to an approved or an accredited  
373 program under the direction of the Commission for Independent  
374 Education, the board must ~~shall~~ recalculate the passage rates of  
375 the programs receiving the transferring students, excluding the  
376 test scores of those students transferring more than 12 credits.

377 (e) Duly authorized agents or employees of the department  
378 may conduct onsite evaluations or inspections at any time during  
379 business hours to ensure that approved programs or accredited  
380 programs are in full compliance with this chapter, or to  
381 determine whether this chapter or s. 456.072 is being violated.  
382 The department may collect any necessary evidence needed to  
383 ensure compliance with this chapter or for prosecution, as  
384 deemed necessary. A program that refuses or fails to allow an  
385 onsite evaluation or inspection is deemed in violation of a  
386 legal obligation imposed by the board or the department.

387 (6) DISCLOSURE OF GRADUATE PASSAGE RATE DATA.—



639802

388           (c) The program director shall ensure that the program's  
389 graduate passage rates for the most recent 2 calendar years, as  
390 published by the board on its website pursuant to subsection  
391 (4), are conspicuously posted on the program's website. The  
392 program's website must include only the graduate passage rates  
393 specific to that program.

394           (8) RULEMAKING.—The board does not have rulemaking  
395 authority to administer this section, except that the board  
396 shall adopt rules that prescribe the format for submitting  
397 program applications under subsection (1) and annual reports  
398 under subsection (3), to implement graduate nursing  
399 preceptorships as established in paragraph (1)(k), to enforce  
400 and administer subsection (5), and to administer the  
401 documentation of the accreditation of nursing education programs  
402 under subsection (11). The board may adopt rules relating to the  
403 nursing curriculum, including rules relating to the uses and  
404 limitations of simulation technology, ~~and rules relating to the~~  
405 ~~criteria to qualify for an extension of time to meet the~~  
406 ~~accreditation requirements under paragraph (11)(f).~~ The board  
407 may not impose any condition or requirement on an educational  
408 institution submitting a program application, an approved  
409 program, or an accredited program, except as expressly provided  
410 in this section.

411           (11) ACCREDITATION REQUIRED.—

412           ~~(f) An approved nursing education program may, no sooner~~  
413 ~~than 90 days before the deadline for meeting the accreditation~~  
414 ~~requirements of this subsection, apply to the board for an~~  
415 ~~extension of the accreditation deadline for a period which does~~  
416 ~~not exceed 2 years. An additional extension may not be granted.~~



639802

417 ~~In order to be eligible for the extension, the approved program~~  
418 ~~must establish that it has a graduate passage rate of 60 percent~~  
419 ~~or higher on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing~~  
420 ~~Licensing Examination for the most recent calendar year and must~~  
421 ~~meet a majority of the board's additional criteria, including,~~  
422 ~~but not limited to, all of the following:~~

423 ~~1. A student retention rate of 60 percent or higher for the~~  
424 ~~most recent calendar year.~~

425 ~~2. A graduate work placement rate of 70 percent or higher~~  
426 ~~for the most recent calendar year.~~

427 ~~3. The program has applied for approval or been approved by~~  
428 ~~an institutional or programmatic accreditor recognized by the~~  
429 ~~United States Department of Education.~~

430 ~~4. The program is in full compliance with subsections (1)~~  
431 ~~and (3) and paragraph (5) (b).~~

432 ~~5. The program is not currently in its second year of~~  
433 ~~probationary status under subsection (5).~~

434  
435 ~~The applicable deadline under this paragraph is tolled from the~~  
436 ~~date on which an approved program applies for an extension until~~  
437 ~~the date on which the board issues a decision on the requested~~  
438 ~~extension.~~

439 Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 464.022, Florida  
440 Statutes, is amended to read:

441 464.022 Exceptions.—No provision of this part shall be  
442 construed to prohibit:

443 (4) The practice of nursing by graduates of prelicensure  
444 nursing education programs listed in s. 464.008(1)(c), pending  
445 the result of the first licensing examination for which they are



446 eligible following graduation, provided they practice under  
447 direct supervision of a registered professional nurse; or by  
448 temporary provisional licensees practicing under the direct  
449 supervision of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse,  
450 as applicable. The board shall by rule define what constitutes  
451 direct supervision.

452 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

453

454 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

455 And the title is amended as follows:

456 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
457 and insert:

458 A bill to be entitled  
459 An act relating to nursing education programs;  
460 amending s. 464.008, F.S.; requiring applicants for  
461 nurse licensure seeking to take the licensing  
462 examination more than 6 months after graduation to  
463 first complete a remedial course approved or developed  
464 by the Board of Nursing; requiring the board to  
465 develop the course in consultation with the Florida  
466 Center for Nursing and make it available on its  
467 website for free to applicants experiencing hardship;  
468 requiring the Department of Health to issue temporary  
469 provisional licenses to graduate professional nurses  
470 and graduate practical nurses meeting certain  
471 criteria; specifying requirements for the temporary  
472 provisional license; providing that temporary  
473 provisional licensees may practice only under direct  
474 supervision and subject to a written protocol with a



639802

475 registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, as  
476 applicable; requiring the board to adopt rules;  
477 amending s. 464.019, F.S.; revising application  
478 requirements for nursing education program approval;  
479 specifying preceptorship requirements; requiring the  
480 Florida Center for Nursing to develop graduate nursing  
481 preceptorship standards by a specified date; requiring  
482 the board to incorporate the standards into rule;  
483 authorizing the board to consider certain adverse  
484 actions in determining program approval; requiring  
485 program directors to notify the board of certain  
486 adverse actions within a specified timeframe;  
487 requiring the board to deny a program's application  
488 under certain circumstances; authorizing the board to  
489 investigate the nature of a certain adverse action and  
490 take specified actions; clarifying that an approved  
491 program's director is responsible for submitting  
492 certain annual reports to the board; requiring the  
493 board to terminate a program under certain  
494 circumstances; providing penalties for program  
495 directors found to be in violation of specified  
496 provisions; revising remediation procedures for  
497 approved programs with graduate passage rates that do  
498 not meet specified requirements; subjecting program  
499 directors of approved programs to specified  
500 disciplinary action under certain circumstances;  
501 deleting a provision authorizing the board to extend a  
502 program's probationary status; authorizing agents or  
503 employees of the department to conduct onsite



639802

504 evaluations and inspections of approved and accredited  
505 nursing education programs; authorizing the department  
506 to collect evidence as part of such evaluations and  
507 inspections; deeming the failure or refusal of a  
508 program to allow such evaluation or inspection a  
509 violation of a legal obligation; requiring program  
510 directors to ensure that graduate passage rates are  
511 conspicuously posted on their program's website;  
512 revising rulemaking authority of the board; deleting a  
513 provision authorizing approved nursing education  
514 programs to request an extension to meet the board's  
515 accreditation requirements; amending s. 464.022, F.S.;  
516 providing construction; providing an effective date.